

Battle of Lexington

Document A

Sourcing (Answer these questions before reading the document.)

- 1) Who was John Barker?
- 2) What kind of document is this?
- 3) When was this written?
- 4) What do you predict this document will say?

Close Reading

- 5) According to this document, what happened at the Battle of Lexington?
- 6) According to this document, who fired the first shot at the Battle of Lexington?

Reliability

- 7) Do you think this document provides a trustworthy account of what happened at the Battle of Lexington? Why or why not?

Document A: Barker (Modified)

19th. At 2 o'clock we began our march by wading through a very long stream up to our middles. About 5 miles away from a town called Lexington, we heard there were some hundreds of people collected together intending to oppose us. At 5 o'clock we arrived there and saw a number of people, I believe between 200 and 300, formed in a common in the middle of the town. We still continued advancing, keeping prepared against an attack though without intending to attack them. As we came near them, they fired one or two shots, upon which our men without any orders, fired and put them to flight. We then formed on the Common, but with some difficulty, the men were so wild they could hear no orders; we waited a considerable time there, and at length proceeded on our way to Concord.

Source: *Entry for April 19, 1775, from the diary of Lieutenant John Barker, an officer in the British army.*

Document B**Sourcing** (Answer these questions before reading the document)

- 1) Who were the authors of this document?
- 2) What kind of document is this?
- 3) When was this written?
- 4) What do you predict this document will say?

Close Reading and Corroboration

- 5) What details about the Battle of Lexington do Documents A and B have in common?
- 6) What details about the battle are different?

Reliability

- 7) Do you think this document provides a trustworthy account of what happened at the Battle of Lexington? Why or why not?

Document B: Colonists (Modified)

We Nathaniel Mulliken, Philip Russell, (Followed by the names of 32 other men present on Lexington Green on April 19, 1775) . . . all of lawful age, and inhabitants of Lexington . . . do testify and declare, that on the nineteenth of April, about five o'clock in the morning, we proceeded towards the Green, and saw a large body of troops marching towards us. Some of our men were coming to the Green, and others had reached it, at which time, they began to disperse. While our backs were turned on the British troops, they fired on us, and a number of our men were instantly killed and wounded, not a gun was fired by any person in our company on the British soldiers to our knowledge before they fired on us, and continued firing until we had all made our escape.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

Source: *Sworn by 34 minutemen on April 25, 1775, before three justices of the peace.*